

## **APPENDIX E**

### **International Bureau Public Notices on Technical Coordination**



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**

**1919 - M Street, N.W.**

**Washington, D. C. 20554**

News media Information 202 / 418-0500

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Report IN 98-73

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

December 22, 1998

## UNITED STATES AND MEXICO SIGN AGREEMENT ON MOBILE SATELLITE SERVICES

On Monday December 21, 1998 in Mexico City, the United States and Mexican Governments signed the Protocol Concerning the Transmission and Reception of Signals From Satellites for the Provision of Mobile-Satellite Services and Associated Feeder Links in the United States of America and the United Mexican States. This Mobile-Satellite Service (MSS) Protocol is the third Protocol signed under the U.S.-Mexican Satellite Services Agreement of April 1996. In November 1996, the United States and Mexico concluded the Protocol on direct-to-home (DTH) satellite services and in October 1997, the United States and Mexico concluded the Protocol on Fixed-Satellite Services.

The Protocol will allow U.S. and Mexican satellites to provide mobile-satellite services, like low-earth orbit satellite systems, into both countries, using MSS, and associated feeder link, frequency bands. Under its WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications Services Mexico committed to allow access to its market for the provision of mobile satellite services beginning in 2002. The Protocol enables U.S. licensed MSS providers to access the Mexican market immediately.

The Protocol further demonstrates the commitment that the United States and Mexico share in enhancing satellite competition in our national markets through the introduction of new services provided by U.S. and Mexican satellites.

- FCC -

News Media contact: David Fiske (202) 418-0500

International Bureau contact: Jennifer Gilsenan (202) 418-0420



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**1919 - M Street, N.W.**  
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Report No. IN 98- 72    INTERNATIONAL ACTION    December 18, 1998

## **U.S. AND MEXICO REACH UNDERSTANDING ON THE USE OF FREQUENCIES FOR FIRE-FIGHTING AND OTHER EMERGENCY RELIEF EFFORTS ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER AREA**

The United States and Mexico have reached an agreement on the use of radio frequencies for firefighting and other emergency relief efforts along the U.S.-Mexico border. The agreement is in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT) of the United Mexican States. The Understanding reserves certain radio frequencies for emergency use in the border area and encourages the parties to minimize non-emergency use of these frequencies outside of the border area. The Understanding also includes procedures for coordinating frequency use and addressing any interference that may occur. In addition, the Understanding establishes a program that will allow Mexico to use certain U.S. radio equipment.

This MOU represents a critical step in advancing the cause of public safety. Stephen M. Jenkins, Chief, Incident Communications of the U.S. Forest Service at the National Interagency Fire Center, stated: "Fire-fighter and public safety is the first priority in every fire management activity [and] this Understanding ... is a major step toward providing this service." FCC Chairman William E. Kennard stated that this Understanding "will significantly improve the ability of both the U.S. and Mexico to protect lives and property along the U.S.-Mexico border."

The full text of the Understanding has been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room located on the first floor of 2000 M St. N.W. Copies are also available from the International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800 and can be downloaded from the FCC's International Bureau internet site at <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/pnd/agree>.

- FCC -

News Media contact: Rosemary Kimball at (202) 418-0500; TTY at (202) 418-2155  
Wireless Telecommunications Bureau contact: Michael Pollak at (202) 418-1682  
International Bureau contact: Tom Lucey at (202) 418-2161



# NEWS

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Report No. IN 98- 68    INTERNATIONAL ACTION    December 15, 1998

## **U.S. AND MEXICO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE USE OF DIGITAL MDS AND ITFS SYSTEMS ALONG THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER**

The United States and Mexico have reached agreement on the operation of digital Multipoint Distribution Service (MDS) and Instructional Television Fixed Service (ITFS) systems along the U.S.-Mexico border area. These video distribution services provide a form of wireless cable, with the MDS service available on a subscription basis and the ITFS service for use within educational institutions. Under this agreement, the existing *Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Assignment of Frequencies and Usage of the 2500-2686 MHz Band Along the United States-Mexico Border*, signed August 11, 1992, which covers analog MDS and ITFS systems, will be amended to also cover digital systems. The amendments provide notification and coordination procedures for digital MDS and ITFS systems and threshold technical parameters for such systems.

The new agreement will allow MDS operators, educational institutions and the public to enjoy the benefits of digital technology, including improved quality, greater diversity of services and more efficient spectrum use. In commenting on the agreement, Andrew Kreig, President and CEO of the Wireless Communications Association International (WCA) stated, "We're delighted at the news, which will allow the benefits of advanced digital wireless services to be enjoyed by residents, students, businesses and other users on the border, encouraging their growth and prosperity ... for the benefit of all." FCC Chairman William E. Kennard stated that "this agreement represents a major step forward in the cooperative efforts of Mexico and the U.S. to bring the benefits of digital services to consumers quickly."

The amendments were adopted through an exchange of diplomatic notes and will enter into force after both parties indicate that they have complied with any national legislative requirements, a process that is expected to be completed within the next month. Information on the amended agreement has been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room located on the first floor of 2000 M St. N.W. Copies are also available from the International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800 and can be downloaded from the FCC's International Bureau internet site at <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/pnd/agree>.

News Media contact: Rosemary Kimball at (202) 418-0500; TTY at (202) 418-2155  
International Bureau contact: Steve Selwyn at (202) 418-2160.  
Mass Media Bureau contact: Keith Larson at (202) 418-2600

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# NEWS

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Report No. IN 98-50    INTERNATIONAL ACTION    September 3, 1998

## **THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA AGREE ON CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S. SATELLITE DIGITAL AUDIO RADIO SERVICES (DARS) AND CANADIAN TERRESTRIAL DIGITAL RADIO BROADCAST SERVICES (T-DRB) ALONG THE U.S./CANADA BORDER AREA**

The United States and Canada have agreed on technical conditions for implementation of Terrestrial Digital Radio Broadcasting (T-DRB) services in Canada in the 1452-1492 MHz band and Satellite Digital Audio Radio Services (DARS) in the United States in the 2320-2345 MHz band. As a result, T-DRB service can be implemented immediately, and the launch of DARS can occur after a transition period. Coordination discussions regarding DARS are continuing with countries other than Canada.

These agreed upon conditions are the result of negotiations that took place over several years and involved complex inter-service frequency sharing considerations unique to the U.S. and Canada in these two bands. Although these bands are used for different services in Canada and the U.S., new applications of digital technology will be introduced by Canadian and U.S. providers. It is important to note that the continued operation of U.S. aeronautical telemetry stations was a paramount concern in these discussions. Looking to the future, FCC Chairman William E. Kennard, stated, "This successful negotiation will provide U.S. consumers access to innovative CD quality audio programming and will promote new communications services using innovative satellite-delivered digital technologies."

U.S. Ambassador Vonya McCann and Canadian Assistant Deputy Minister Michael Binder exchanged letters that will allow both countries to begin to implement by September 1, 1998 the technical conditions for the introduction of these new digital sound broadcasting services on either side of the border. Both the United States and Canada have pledged to work swiftly to convert these technical conditions into binding international agreements.

In the interim both countries will implement these mutually agreeable conditions on an interim basis, beginning on September 1, 1998. Details of the conditions are available on the FCC internet site for the International Bureau (<http://www.fcc.gov/ib>).

For further information, contact Ronald Repasi, (202) 418-0768, Rosalee Chiara (202) 418-0754 or Larry Olson at (202) 418-2142, of the International Bureau.



# NEWS

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Report No. IN 98-42

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

July 31, 1998

**U.S. AND MEXICO REACH AGREEMENT  
FOR IMPLEMENTING DIGITAL TELEVISION SERVICE  
ALONG THE U.S./MEXICO BORDER, APPROVING ALL STATIONS  
SLATED TO BEGIN SERVICE IN NOVEMBER 1998 AND MAY 1999**

The FCC and Mexico's Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that establishes procedures for implementing digital television (DTV) service along the United States/Mexico border and approves all five DTV stations in the U.S./Mexico border area slated to begin service in November 1998 and May 1999.

The MOU was signed by FCC Chairman William E. Kennard and SCT Undersecretary of Communications Jorge Nicolin. As stated by Chairman Kennard, "this MOU represents a major step forward in the cooperative efforts of Mexico and the U.S. to bring the benefits of DTV to consumers quickly, and clears the way for the imminent roll-out of DTV in the Top 10 U.S. markets."

The MOU provides an expedited notification process through which most authorized DTV stations can begin operation within 15 days of notification to the other country. In addition, the MOU specifies that no further notification is needed for the five U.S. television stations in Los Angeles which have voluntarily committed to begin DTV operation by November 1, 1998, or which are required to begin DTV operations by May 1, 1999. The FCC has required stations affiliated with ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC to build their digital facilities in the 10 largest television markets by May 1, 1999. In addition, 24 stations in the Top 10 markets have committed to begin operations by November 1, 1998. Los Angeles is the only Top 10 market located within the U.S./Mexico border zone.

"This MOU, in conjunction with recent notification approvals from Canada, means that the 42 U.S. television stations in the Top 10 markets that are expected to begin DTV operations in the next three to nine months can do so without having to wait for further approval from either Mexico or Canada," added Chairman Kennard.

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The MOU, which covers DTV operations in the area extending 275 kilometers on either side of the U.S./Mexico common border, contains the following major provisions:

1. A list of mutually acceptable second channel DTV allotments for each country.
2. Procedures to be used for notifying each administration of plans to implement DTV service relative to an allotment.
3. The methods to be used by each administration in evaluating the acceptability of proposed DTV facilities.

The first part of the MOU describes the procedures for notifying DTV facilities that are intended to be brought into service, along with tables listing distance separation requirements where DTV facilities are involved. The MOU appendices contain: (1) lists of NTSC channel allotments and second channel DTV allotments for each country, (2) a list of the technical parameters to be included in notifications, (3) the methodology to be used in evaluating proposed DTV facilities, and (4) lists of each country's accepted DTV facilities. This MOU supersedes an earlier MOU, signed April 2, 1997, in which the U.S. and Mexico agreed to work together to develop a list of second channels for DTV.

The full text of the Memorandum of Understanding has been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room located on the first floor of 2000 M St. N.W. Copies are available from International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800 and can be downloaded from the FCC's International Bureau internet site at <http://www.fcc.gov/ib/pnd/agree>.

- FCC -

News Media contact: Rosemary Kimball at (202) 418-0500.  
International Bureau contact: Larry Olson at (202) 418-2142.  
Office of Engineering and Technology contact: Bruce Franca at (202) 418-2470.





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Report No. IN 97-39

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

December 19, 1997

## **UNDERSTANDING REACHED BETWEEN FCC AND INDUSTRY CANADA TO ALLOW USE OF DIGITAL MULTIPOINT DISTRIBUTION SERVICE (MDS) SYSTEMS ALONG THE U.S./CANADA BORDER AREA**

The FCC and Industry Canada have finalized an Understanding that permits the use of digital technology by Multipoint Distribution Service (MDS) systems along the U.S./Canada border area. The *General FCC/Industry Canada Understanding Concerning the Coordination of the 2500-2686 MHz Band Within 80 km (50 miles) of the United States of America/Canada Border* maintains the previous requirements for analog systems but extends the scope of the earlier agreement by establishing allocation parameters for digital systems within the border area. The revision was required to facilitate implementation of digital systems for MDS and other services operating in the band along the U.S.-Canada border. The new Understanding supersedes a prior Understanding bearing the same title which was dated March 23, 1989 and which had limited use of the band to analog systems.

In commenting on the Understanding, International Bureau Chief Regina Keeney stated, "this Understanding will enable MDS services to utilize digital techniques to deliver increased quality and services and to make more efficient use of spectrum in the border area."

The Understanding sets forth the technical parameters and threshold criteria for avoiding coordination between digital stations and the current analog stations, as well as between digital stations. Additionally, in light of the limited record for the application of digital technology in this band, provision is made for the revision of the protection ratios for digital systems when more extensive performance data becomes available. Those operators in the U.S.-Canada border area who have been precluded from using digital systems may now submit applications to do.

The full text of the Understanding has been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room located on the first floor of 2000 M St. N.W and is also accessible through the FCC/IB Website. Copies can also be obtained through the Commission contractor, International Transcription Service, at (202) 857-3800. For further information, contact Henry Straube, Planning and Negotiations Division, International Bureau at (202) 418-2150 or Keith Larson, Mass Media Bureau at (202) 418-2600.

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IN Report No. 97-34

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

October 17, 1997

## **INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ANNOUNCES SIGNING OF FIXED-SATELLITE SERVICES PROTOCOL WITH MEXICO**

On Thursday, October 16 in Mexico City, the United States and Mexican Governments signed the Protocol Concerning the Transmission and Reception of Signals From Satellites for the Provision of Fixed-Satellite Services in the United States of America and the United Mexican States. This Fixed-Satellite Service (FSS) Protocol is the second Protocol signed under the U.S-Mexican Satellite Services Agreement of April 1996. In November 1996, the United States and Mexico concluded the Protocol on direct-to-home (DTH) satellite services.

The Protocol will allow U.S. and Mexican satellites to provide fixed-satellite services into both countries, using FSS frequency bands (including the C-, Ku-, and Ka-bands). Under the Protocol U.S. satellites may provide international fixed-satellite services to and from Mexico immediately and domestic fixed-satellite services within Mexico on the earlier date of January 1, 1999 (three years earlier than Mexico committed to under the February 1997 WTO Agreement on Basic Telecommunications Services), or the date on which the Morelos II replacement satellite becomes operational. Under last year's Protocol on DTH services, U.S. satellites may provide the cable headend as of next month.

The Protocol further demonstrates the commitment that the United States and Mexico share in enhancing satellite competition in our national markets through the introduction of new services provided by U.S. and Mexican satellites.

The parties expect to commence discussion shortly on a third Protocol, to address mobile-satellite services.

- FCC -

News Media contact: Meribeth McCarrick at (202) 418-0256.  
International Bureau contact: Jennifer Gilsenan at (202) 418-0757.



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Report No. IN-97-

April 18, 1997

## **UNDERSTANDING REACHED WITH MEXICO ON THE INTRODUCTION OF DIGITAL TELEVISION SERVICE WITHIN THE BORDER AREA**

FCC Chairman Reed E. Hundt and Mexico Undersecretary of Communications and Technological Development Javier Lozano Alarcon of the Secretariat of Communications and Transportation (SCT) have signed the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Federal Communications Commission of the United States of America and the Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes of the United Mexican States Related to the Use of the 54-72 MHz, 76-88 MHz, 174-216 MHz and 470-806 MHz Bands for the Digital Television Broadcasting Service Along the Common Border. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes the principles to be applied in the allocation of frequencies for use by digital television (DTV) operations along the U.S./Mexican border.

Chairman Hundt said, "Because working together cooperatively has become standard practice in our bilateral efforts with Mexico, the understanding was reached in a very brief time. We are now focusing on arriving at a similar agreement on DTV with our friends in Canada in the near future."

The MOU provides for:

Continued adherence to the terms of bilateral agreements currently in affect governing the use of the 54-72 MHz, 76-88 MHz, 174-216 MHz and 470-806 MHz bands for television broadcasting;

Recognition that television broadcasting services utilizing digital techniques have the potential to deliver increased quality and diversity of service as well as provide for more efficient use of the TV spectrum;

Establishment of interim distance separations between digital stations and the current analog stations, and between digital stations, pending the establishment of permanent allocation criteria; and,

Recognition of the efforts put forth in the U.S. to assign DTV channels to existing analog stations and developments underway in Mexico to produce a DTV channelling plan. The Federal Communications Commission will be releasing a U.S. Table of Allotments for DTV in April of 1997, and will be issuing licenses to stations (assignments) within 275 km of the common border. However, those licenses will be conditioned on the outcome of further consultations between the Federal Communications Commission and the Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes;

The MOU also includes understandings by both parties to:

1. Promote the introduction of DTV in their respective countries.
2. Work jointly to assign a second channel to the allotments referred to in Appendix I (Mexican NTSC) and Appendix II (U.S. NTSC) of the MOU, with a bandwidth of 6 MHz for the transmission of digital television signals.
3. Establish a coordination distance of 275 km for DTV allotments and assignments.
4. Create TV allotments either for analog (NTSC) or digital (DTV) use. When the allotment is strictly for analog (NTSC) use, compliance with the technical criteria and the appropriate spacings specified in the existing agreements is required. When digital (DTV) allotments are involved, new distance separation requirements included in the MOU will be observed.
5. Work together to develop, within 4 to 6 months, a table of second channels for DTV using equitable and reciprocal criteria for both countries, with a view to signing a new television broadcast agreement which covers the full range of TV systems in the shortest possible time.

The full text of the Memorandum of Understanding has been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room located on the first floor of 2000 M St. N.W. Copies are available from International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800. For further information, contact Henry Straube, Planning and Negotiation Division, International Bureau at (202) 418-2150 or Bruce Franca, Office of Engineering Technology at (202) 418-2470.



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February 28, 1997***JOINT PRESS RELEASE*****U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

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**PAGING SERVICES AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH MEXICO**

Yesterday, the United States and Mexico signed an agreement delineating technical provisions for the coordination and use of frequencies for Paging Services within 120 kilometers of the border in the 929-930 MHz and 931-932 MHz bands. The agreement, formally referred to as a "Protocol", has been in the process of negotiation for four years and its signing is a major step toward establishing long term stability for paging systems operating in the border area and it provides a reference upon which future service developments in the border area may based.

The Protocol was signed for the U.S. by Ambassador Vonya B. McCann, U.S. Coordinator, International Communications and Information Policy (CIP) of the Department of State, and FCC Chairman Reed E. Hundt. Signing for Mexico was Carlos Casaus, Chairman of the Federal Telecommunications Commission of the Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT). The signing took place at the Treaty Signing Room at the Department of State in Washington, D.C. The negotiating team included members of the FCC's International Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and State Department's CIP. Upon conclusion of the signing, a ceremony dedicated the proceedings to the late Wendell Harris, former Associate Chief of the FCC's International Bureau, whose efforts were instrumental in the development and negotiation of this Protocol. In attendance for the commemoration were Mr. Harris's wife, Mrs Ansonia Harris, and other members of the family.

The Protocol identifies priority channels for the Administrations across the full border for the 929 MHz band and within 7 longitudinal zones for the 931 MHz band. Twelve frequencies are designated as "shared channels", 6 each in the 929 MHz and 931 MHz bands. The Protocol allows for -- and even encourages -- operators in both countries to form joint operating partnerships to expand service areas and avoid transborder conflicts. The FCC and the Mexican SCT are to be notified of such agreements, which are subject to review or approval, as appropriate, by the respective agencies.

The principal provisions of the new agreement are:

- o Each Administration shall have full use of all the channels beyond 120 kilometers (75 miles) of the border.
- o Stations are limited to a maximum 1000 watts E.R.P. with antenna height/power restrictions similar to FCC rules.

- o All U.S. operations licensed before negotiations were initiated with Mexico in 1993, are identified for full protection from any use by a Mexican operation even on those channels designated for Mexico's primary use.
- o Stations on Mexican primary channels that were licensed after negotiations began will be allowed to continue operations but may be required to modify their technical parameters if necessary to resolve harmful interference or, in the absence of other mitigating arrangements, to discontinue operation to protect Mexican operations.
- o Stations in each country will have limited access to the channels allotted to the other country on a secondary basis.

More specific details for each band include:

- o For the 929-930 MHz band:
  - The United States and Mexico shall each have primary use of 17 of the 40 available channels.
  - Six channels are designated for shared use.
- o For the 931-932 MHz band:
  - On 34 of the 40 channels, there are seven geographic areas designated along the border and priority use in each area is specified for an Administration.
  - The remaining 6 channels are designated for shared use.

The Protocol is augmented by a Letter of Understanding signed by FCC Chairman Hundt and Carlos Casaus, Chairman of the Federal Telecommunications Commission, that emphasizes the resolve of the two agencies to collaborate on their activities to encourage paging operators on both sides of the border to strive for joint operating arrangements that will facilitate broader sharing of paging in the border zone.

The texts signed yesterday supersede the *Letter of Understanding Related to the Temporary Use of the 929-930 MHz and 931-932 MHz Bands for Paging Services Along the Common Border* which the United States and Mexico signed on December 19, 1995, in Mexico City, Mexico. The signing removes a number of administrative barriers that had restricted the issuance of new paging authorizations by the Commission during the negotiations interval. Allotments and priorities for frequencies and geographic areas designated for use by each Administration as specified in the Protocol can now be fully utilized.

The full text of the Paging Protocol has been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room located on the first floor of 2000 M St. N.W. Copies are available from International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800.

For further information, contact Henry Straube in the Planning and Negotiations Division of the International Bureau at (202) 418-2150 or Ron Netro, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at (202) 418-1310. The contact at the Department of State is: William H. Jahn, at (202) 647-2723

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DA 96-1880

Report No. SPB-65

November 13, 1996

INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ANNOUNCES CONCLUSION OF U.S.-MEXICO  
PROTOCOL FOR DIRECT-TO-HOME SATELLITE SERVICES

1. On April 26, 1996, the United States and Mexico concluded negotiations and signed a bilateral agreement concerning the transmission and reception of signals from satellites for the provision of satellite services to users in the United States of America and the United Mexican States (the "Agreement"). The purpose of the Agreement is to "facilitate the provision of services to, from, and within the United States and Mexico via commercial satellites...and to establish the conditions relating to the use in both countries of satellites licensed in the United States and Mexico."

2. The Agreement provided for the inclusion of Protocols in the Annex to the Agreement, in order to address particular kinds of satellite services. During the drafting of the first "Protocol" to the Agreement (the "Protocol"), the International Bureau sought comment on the proposal to conclude the Protocol, and on factors that the International Bureau should take into account in its advice to and consultations with the Department of State and other members of the Executive Branch. Request for Comment on U.S.-Mexico DTH-FSS/BSS Protocol, DA 96-1309, released August 14, 1996. The Protocol addresses specifically the provision of direct-to-home fixed-satellite and broadcast-satellite ("DTH- FSS/BSS") services to, from, and within U.S. and Mexican territory.

3. On November 8, 1996, the U.S. and Mexico signed the "Protocol Concerning the Transmission and Reception of Signals from Satellites for the Provision of Direct-to-Home Satellite Services in the United States of America and the United Mexican States." The Protocol entered into force on November 11, 1996; a copy of the Protocol is attached to this Public Notice.

4. Both the Protocol and the Agreement are available for viewing and copying in Room 102, 2000 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. or may be purchased from the Commission's copy contractor, ITS Inc., 202-857-3800. For additional information, please contact Tom Boasberg (202-418-0431) or Suzanne Hutchings (202-418-0762) of the International Bureau.



# NEWS

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Report No. IN-96-3

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

January 19, 1996

## NEW PAGING ARRANGEMENT WITH MEXICO WILL PERMIT PROMPT LICENSING OF PAGING SERVICES ALONG THE BORDER AREA

FCC Chairman Reed E. Hundt and Mexico Undersecretary Carlos Casasus of the Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT) signed on December 19, 1995 in Mexico City a Letter of Understanding Related to the Temporary Use of the 929-930 MHz and 931-932 MHz Bands for Paging Services Along the Common Border. The Letter of Understanding establishes an agreement in principle to a draft protocol concerning frequency allotments along the border for paging services in the 929 MHz and 931 MHz bands.

The arrangement has been under negotiation for several years. During that time, new paging services in the 931-932 MHz band were not authorized. With the signing of the Letter of Understanding, the FCC will resume licensing by applying the agreed upon allotment plan on an interim basis. Chairman Hundt said, "this important agreement will eliminate a longstanding impediment to action on a number of pending applications. I am delighted that we can now move swiftly to relieve a serious backlog."

The licensing of paging operations in the 929-930 MHz band has continued during the negotiations, although those licenses have been conditioned on compliance with any final agreement on paging frequencies that actually comes into force. Paging licenses for new operations in the 931-932 MHz band will be subject to similar conditions. It is anticipated that the actual paging protocol will be signed within the next few months.

Under the arrangement, each Administration is allotted specific frequencies for paging operations within particular geographic segments of the border. The coordination zone within which the allotment plan is effective extends 120 kilometers into each country along each side of the U.S./Mexico border.

The full texts of the Letter of Understanding and the associated draft paging protocol, with the details of the allotment plan, have been placed on file at the International Bureau Reference Room located on the first floor of 2000 M St. N.W. Copies are available from International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800. For further information, contact Henry Straube, Planning and Negotiations Division, International Bureau at (202) 418-2150 or Ron Netro, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau at (202)418-1310.

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Report No. IN 95-31

INTERNATIONAL ACTION

October 27, 1995

## **INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ANNOUNCES INTERNET ACCESS TO SHORTWAVE BROADCASTING SCHEDULES**

The International Bureau announces that information about shortwave (or high frequency) international broadcasting stations licensed by the Commission is now available on the INTERNET. The FCC oversees the frequency coordination process for private U.S. shortwave broadcasters, developing consolidated schedules that are coordinated internationally. These schedules change on a seasonal basis at least twice a year -- with additional refinements made intermittently. Because of the frequency and complexity of the updates, use of the INTERNET will make more efficient the FCC's distribution of current information to shortwave broadcasters and the general public. The process is now handled manually.

The data available include station operating parameters, seasonal operational frequency schedules, international coordinated frequency schedules, current issues and announcements, and other related material. The information is available in two ways:

1) Using the World Wide Web: A new set of Web pages has been added on the Commission's INTERNET host that will provide access using commonly available WWW navigators such as Mosaic and Netscape. The pages then can be accessed by setting the location to:

[http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/International/WWW/HF\\_broadcasting/hf.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/International/WWW/HF_broadcasting/hf.html)

Alternatively you can access the FCC Welcome Page at

<http://www.fcc.gov/Welcome.html>

and follow the links to the International Bureau - Hot Topics - HF-Broadcasting.

2) Using "file transfer protocol": If a WWW browser is not available, the files can be retrieved using ftp. The Commission's ftp server is "ftp.fcc.gov". Login as "anonymous" and use your E-mail address as a password. HF files can be downloaded from the "/pub/Bureaus/International/WWW/HF\_broadcasting" directory. HF Schedules and station parameter files are located in this directory and have a "txt" file extension.

For further information, contact Tom Polzin or Charles Magnuson in the Planning and Negotiations Division of the International Bureau at (202) 418-2118 .

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# NEWS

Federal Communications Commission  
1919 - M Street, N.W.  
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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October 26, 1995

## INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ISSUES SPECIAL REPORT ON MEXICO

The International Bureau today released a **Special Report on Mexico: 1995 Federal Telecommunications Law and Reorganization of Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT)**. The Report analyses the reorganization of SCT, the Mexican Telecom regulator, and the new Mexican telecommunications law. It was prepared by the International Bureau's Planning and Negotiations Division.

The Report is the first of a series intended to help guide Commission policy, and to assist U.S. industry and consumers. This is the first time the Commission has issued an analysis of foreign law for use by industry and consumers. The analysis is based both on the text of the statute and discussion with Mexican officials.

Mexico is the second most important trading partner of the U.S. Mexico is now undergoing significant legal and regulatory changes preparing for increased liberalization of the communications industry. Understanding these changes is critical for the Commission in the negotiation of border frequency sharing arrangements as well as in the development of international policies that affect both countries. Knowledge of the changing Mexican legal and regulatory regime also is critical to U.S. industry which does or wishes to do business there.

Some of the more important features of the new Mexican legal framework noted in the Special Report include: 1) amendment of Article 28 of the Mexican Constitution to permit privatization of, and encourage competition in, the Mexican satellite industry; 2) increase of foreign ownership limits to 49% for most services; 3) establishment of new spectrum use categories and specification of corresponding spectrum authorization requirements (e.g, "concessions" required for public telecommunications networks and spectrum use, "permits" generally required for resale services and transmitting earth stations, and "registration" required for value added services); 4) elimination of restrictions on services that can be provided by competitive public telecommunications networks including provision of long distance services after August 10, 1996; 5) authority for use of auctions to grant concessions for any non-governmental frequency use; 6) deregulation of receive-only earth stations; 7) adoption of open architecture principles for network interconnection; and 8) establishment of non-discriminatory tariffing principles. The new telecom law also provides that a new regulatory authority, independent from the SCT, shall be created by presidential decree no later than August 10, 1996.

The Special Report also identifies the current structure of the reorganized SCT, which now includes the Subsecretaria de Comunicaciones y Desarrollo Tecnológico (SCDT) (Subsecretary of Communications and Technological Development) headed by Carlos Casaus. SCDT is divided into four General Directorates: 1) Networks and Radiocommunications, 2) Broadcasting Systems 3) Telecommunications Policy and International Negotiations, and 4) Spectrum Administration. There is also a separate office for International Relations Coordination.

The Bureau's Special Report on Mexico will be followed in the near future by a series of additional reports on a variety of emerging international issues. Inquiries concerning the Report may be directed to Aileen A. Pisciotto, Chief, Planning & Negotiations Division at (202) 418-2150.

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August 18, 1995

## **LIST OF MEXICAN FIXED POINT-TO-POINT OPERATIONS IN 1850-1990 MHz (BROADBAND PCS) BAND AVAILABLE**

On May 16, 1995 representatives of the United States and Mexico signed an agreement concerning the Broadband Personal Communications Services (PCS). This agreement provides for use of the 1850-1990 MHz band for Broadband PCS along the United States and Mexico border.

The agreement requires that any new PCS use of these frequencies not cause harmful interference to existing fixed point-to-point microwave operations in the other country. While additional use of the 1850-1990 MHz frequency band for fixed point-to-point use is to be limited and discouraged, all new PCS systems within 120 km (75 miles) of the border must coordinate with existing fixed point-to-point operations. Coordination is based on:

- A technical analysis, using recognized industry procedures such as TIA/EIA Bulletin (TSB10-F), that interference is not caused to existing fixed point-to-point operations; or, alternatively,
- A mutually acceptable arrangement between the PCS and fixed point-to-point operators.

To facilitate such coordination, the agreement provides for an exchange of lists containing pertinent data concerning the fixed point-to-point operations of each administration. The separate lists compiled by the U.S. and Mexico now have been placed on file in the International Bureau Reference Room. Copies are available from International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800. For further information, contact Joslyn Read or Henry Straube in the International Bureau at (202) 739-0424.

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May 16, 1995

## **INTERNATIONAL BUREAU ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO TO ENSURE PCS SERVICE ALONG THE BORDER**

The United States and Mexico today signed coordination agreements for both Narrowband and Broadband Personal Communications Services (PCS). These agreements together with those reached with Canada last fall, ensure seamless and compatible PCS services along both our southern and northern borders. They protect the value of the PCS licenses already awarded in the FCC's auctions and will assist bidders in the remaining PCS auctions.

The agreements were signed for the U.S. by FCC Chairman Reed E. Hundt and Ambassador Vonya B. McCann, U.S. Coordinator International Communications and Information Policy (CIP) of the Department of State. They were signed for Mexico by Secretary Carlos Ruiz Sacristan of the Secretaria de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT). The signing took place at the annual meeting of the US/Mexico Bi-National Consultative Commission on Telecommunications held in Washington D.C. Under the auspices of the State Department's CIP, these agreements were negotiated this spring by the FCC's International Bureau in coordination with the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau.

The agreements provide for use of the 901-902 MHz., 930-931 MHz and 940-941 MHz bands for Narrowband PCS and for use of the 1850-1990 MHz band for Broadband PCS along the United States and Mexico border. Both Mexico and the U.S. recognized that compatible PCS operations at the border are best assured through coordination of operating and technical parameters by the PCS operators. Therefore, the agreements allow for - and even encourage - PCS operators in both countries to form joint operating contracts and partnerships to expand service areas and avoid transborder conflicts. The FCC and the Mexican SCT are to be notified of such agreements, which are subject to review or approval, as appropriate, by the respective agencies.

The principal provisions of these two new agreements are:

For Narrowband PCS:

- o The United States and Mexico shall each have primary use of 24 of the 48 available channels
- o Each Administration shall have full use of all the channels beyond 120 kilometers (75 miles) of the border.
- o Stations in the 901-902 MHz band and all mobile stations are limited to 7 watts E .R

- o Licenses for PCS base station facilities within 72 km (45 miles) of the border will be conditioned to indicate that future coordination is required between PCS operators in both countries to ensure that interference is not caused to PCS operations in the other country and that the band is shared on an equal basis. (This is similar to actions taken during the initial licensing of the cellular radio service.)
- o The predicted or measured median field strength of any PCS base station is not to exceed 47 dBuV/m at any location at or beyond the border unless the affected PCS operators in the adjacent areas agree.
- o Compatible PCS operations at the border are best assured through coordination of operating and technical parameters by PCS operators; and, PCS operators are to notify the FCC and Industry Canada of any agreements. Such agreements are subject to review by the Agencies.

The full text of the arrangement has been placed in GEN Docket No. 90-314 and copies are available from International Transcription Service at (202) 857-3800. For further information, contact Tom Mooring or Rod Small in the Office of Engineering and Technology at (202) 653-8114 (6) or Henry Straube in the International Bureau at (202) 254-3394.

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